

Henry IV Part 2 abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 3

Disillusionment

Situation: Lady Percy, Hotspur's widow and a not very distant descendant of Edward III, in no uncertain terms lets her father-in-law know that she believes he seriously let her husband and his son down when he failed to support the Rebel's cause at Shrewsbury. As a secondary issue, she also lets him know that she thinks it's time for him to let younger men fight for the cause.

Lady Percy to Northumberland

Go not to wars. The time was that you broke
Your word, father, when your Percy awoke
In vain, looking for his father to bring
Up his powers. Who then persuaded you
To stay at home? You both endured the sting
Of honors lost; your brightened; his stuck to
Him in the gray vault of heaven. Wondrous
Him! O miracle of men! You left us,
Left him, second to none, unseconded
By you, to look upon the god of war
With defense but his name, disadvantaged.
Never do his ghost the wrong to hold your
Honor more nice with others than your own
Son. The others are strong. Let them alone.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Fair daughter, you do draw my spirits from me with new lamenting ancient oversights. But I must go and meet with danger there, or it will seek me in another place and find me worse provided.

LADY NORTHUMBRLAND: O, fly to Scotland.

LADY PERCY: For all our loves, first let them try themselves. So did your son; he was so suffered. So came I a widow.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Gladly would I go to meet the Archbishop, but many thousand reasons hold me back. I will resolve for Scotland, there am I till time and vantage crave my company.